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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 April 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement issued on 28 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey in connection with the attack by two Greek Cypriot gunboats against a Turkish cargo ship while sailing in international waters off the coast of southern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued on 28 April 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

On Wednesday, 28 April, at around 9.45 a.m., a Turkish freighter named Alp-5, which was carrying cargo to Gazimagosa port in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus while sailing in international waters off the coast of Larnaca, southern Cyprus, was fired upon by Greek Cypriot gunboats and, as a result, its Captain and a crew member were injured.

This hostile act perpetrated by the Greek Cypriot gunboats against our ship in international waters was immediately brought to the attention of the authorities of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), whereupon the gunboats stopped firing. First-aid treatment has subsequently been given to the wounded on board by doctors who were flown in by helicopter from the British base. The ship continued its course and was expected to arrive at Gazimagosa port at around 6.30 p.m. the same day. It is clear that the interception of and armed assault against a defenceless commercial vessel sailing in the international waters is an act of piracy against all norms of international law, maritime trade and, above all, civilized conduct. The Greek Cypriot side must be aware of the serious consequences that such actions will entail.

This aggressive behaviour is being brought to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with the inevitable response that such acts of piracy are bound to provoke. This is another manifestation and a new example of a mentality which has up to now hindered and prevented the solution of the Cyprus question.